

# Top Gun

**CARTEL #4**



MARC BERNARDIN • ADAM FREEMAN • ROSI KAMPE • BRAD SIMPSON





# Genius

## CARTEL



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### GENIUS CARTEL ISSUE FOUR. NOVEMBER 2017.

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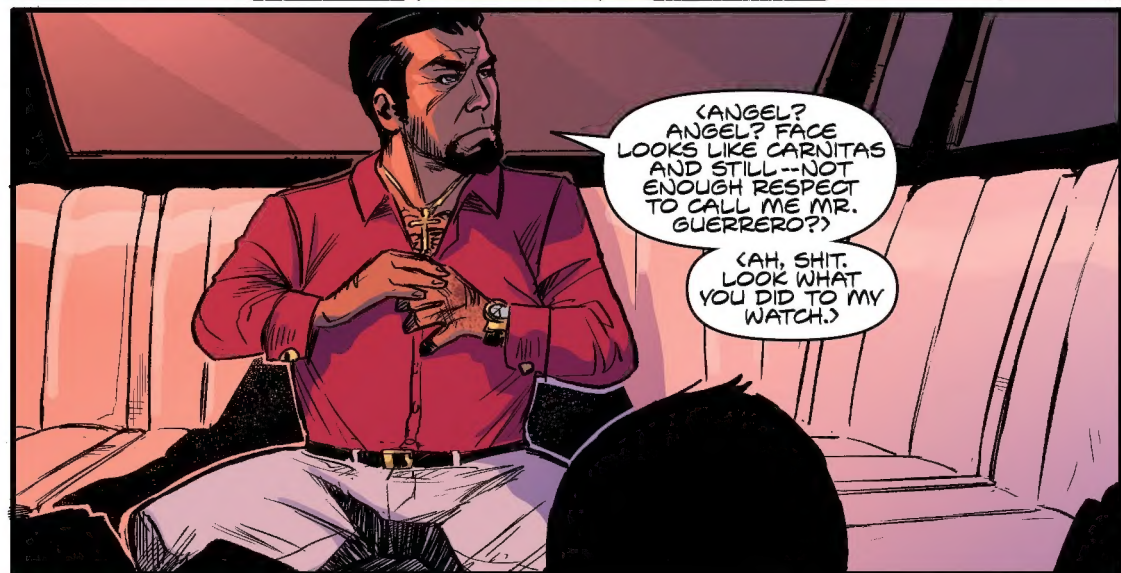


I'M SORRY,  
I DIDN'T GET  
THAT?)\*

CRRRRUINNKK

\*(>) = TRANSLATED  
FROM SPANISH









CAND  
PICK UP HIS  
TEETH. MY  
KIDS RIDE  
IN HERE.)

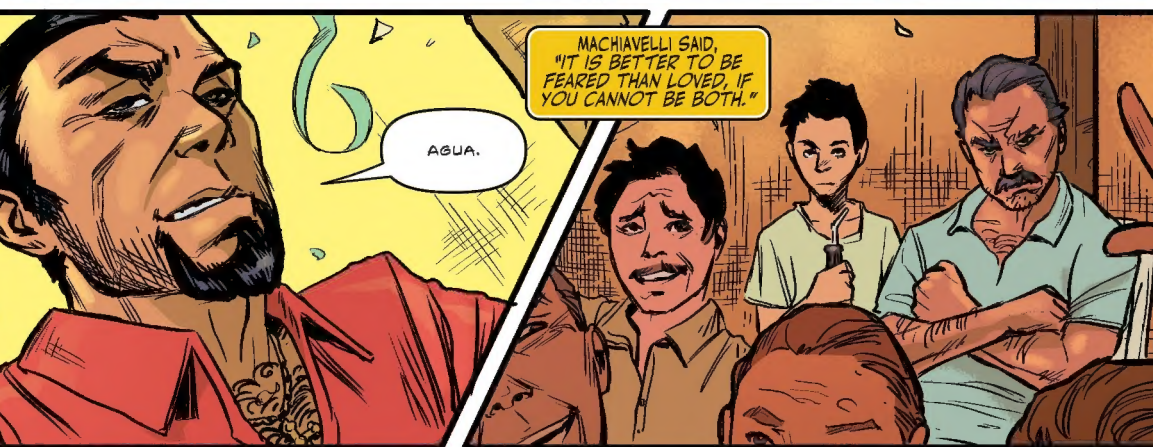


MEXICO HAS A LONG TRADITION OF TURNING  
CRIMINALS INTO FOLK HEROES. CARTELS  
EVEN HAVE THEIR OWN PATRON SAINT--JESÚS  
JUÁREZ MALVERDE, THEIR "ROBIN HOOD."



NOWADAYS, MOST MEXICAN  
TERRITORIES DON'T EVEN HAVE  
POLICE OR A SHERIFF.







SOLO  
EMPLEADOS.


THEY PAY DOCTORS  
TO HEAL THE SICK  
WHILE THEY KILL THOSE  
STRONG ENOUGH TO  
BE A THREAT...

THEY FREE YOUR SONS  
FROM THE FEDERALES...  
WHILE THEY RAPE YOUR  
DAUGHTERS.

GRACIAS,  
ARTURO.









The greatest military mind of our era belongs to **Destiny Ajaye**, a 17-year-old gangbanger.

After uniting the L.A. gangs against a corrupt police force in what is now known as the "Battle of Los Angeles," the world believes she died in custody.


In truth, she has become a ward of the **Madrasa Institute**, a government training facility for young people with "prodigious" gifts.




After refusing several missions, she finally acquiesced--because it will help her complete a secret mission of her own, one left for her by her dead classmate, and only friend, **Roger**.



Madrasa's mission brought her to the compound of **Angel Guerrero**, the leader of Mexico's **Los Zetas** cartel.



Defying orders to assassinate him, she followed the encoded parameters **Roger** left behind, leading her to a group of captive, abused young women Guerrero turned into sex workers.



After reducing Guerrero's drug lab to ashes, **Director Stanton**, the Army commander stationed at **Madrasa**, ordered his men to put **Destiny** down.

He believes they succeeded, but the headmaster of the prodigy program knows different. She has enlisted **Det. Reginald Grey (Ret.)**, the one cop **Destiny** trusted during L.A.'s bloody siege.

**Destiny** is on the run with more than two dozen traumatized women in her charge... and nowhere to go.



SELA, I WANT A COMPLETE DEBRIEF FROM AJAYE'S TEAM WHEN THEY TOUCH DOWN.

I'LL GET RIGHT ON THAT.

YOU CAN BE AS PISSY AS YOU WANT. YOUR PET PROJECT IS NOT THE FIRST ASSET WE'VE LOST.

NO, BUT SHE'S THE FIRST ONE WE PUT DOWN.

OKAY, WE HAVE AN OPERATIVE BELIEVED DEAD.

TWO DOZEN OR SO HEAT SIGNATURES ON HER ASS EVERYWHERE SHE GOES, NO RESOURCES AND WE'RE THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY.

HAS SHE RESPONDED TO ANY OF YOUR PINGS?

NO, I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF SHE IS RECEIVING THEM.

SO, HOW DO WE EXTRACT HER? UBER?

WE DON'T.

WHAT THE FUCK DOES THAT MEAN?

IT MEANS SHE'S NOT READY.

WE COULD LAND AIR FORCE ONE IN HER FRONT YARD AND SHE WOULDN'T GET ON.

EVERYTHING IS A MISSION TO DESTINY. AND SHE HASN'T COMPLETED HERS YET.

I NEED EVERY PIECE OF INTEL YOU HAVE ON LOS ZETAS AND ANGEL GUERRERO. IF SHE DIDN'T KILL HIM, THERE IS A REASON.





BACK IN '99, THE GULF CARTEL WAS LOCKED IN A FULL-BLOWN TURF WAR.

SINALOA, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, JALISCO-- ALL COMING AFTER THEM, RIGHT?

JORGE ALEJANDRO ACUNA, HE WAS THE NUMBER ONE THEN. HE KNEW HE NEEDED MORE MUSCLE. FIRE POWER.

ENTER ANGEL GUERRERO, LIEUTENANT, MEXICAN ARMY. HE HAD AMBITIONS-- AMBITIONS A MILITARY SALARY WAS NOT GOING TO FEED.



GUERRERO GOT OVER 30 OF HIS TOP MEN TO DESERT. AND THESE WEREN'T SIMPLE GRUNTS. WE'RE TALKING "GRUPO AEROMÓVIL DE FUERZAS ESPECIALES." THE ELITE.

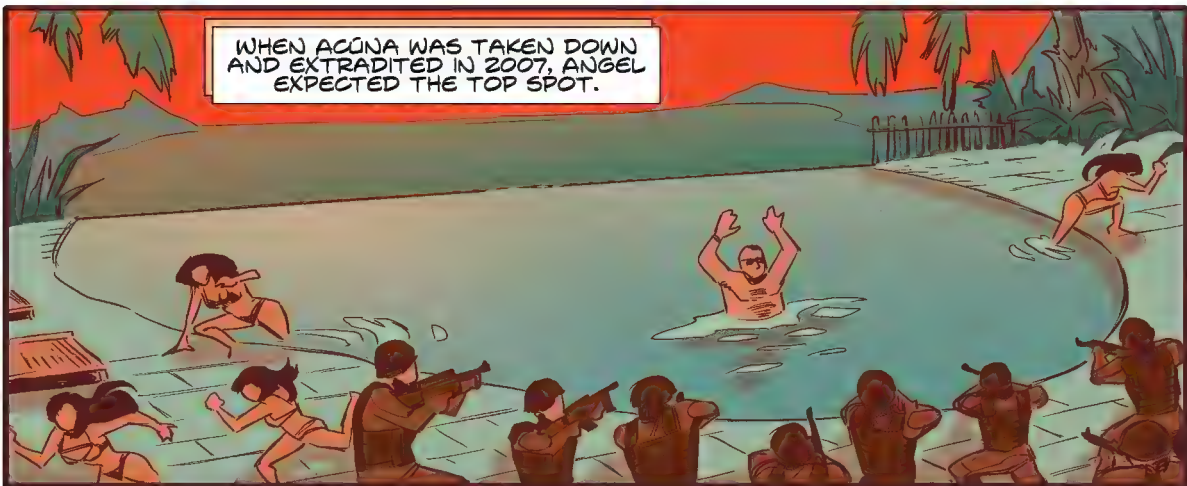


ACUNA RECOGNIZED THOSE SKILL SETS AND PUT THEM TO WORK.

KIDNAPPING, EXTORTION, EXECUTIONS-- YOU NAME IT. THE PRECISION WAS STILL THERE, BUT NOW THEY WERE SAVAGE. THEY DIDN'T JUST DO THEIR JOB. THEY SENT A MESSAGE.



WHEN ACÚNA WAS TAKEN DOWN  
AND EXTRADITED IN 2007, ANGEL  
EXPECTED THE TOP SPOT.



HE  
DIDN'T  
GET IT.



ACÚNA'S GAMBLING, DRUGGED-OUT,  
FUCK-UP OF A BROTHER PHILIP  
RESURFACED AND STEPPED IN.



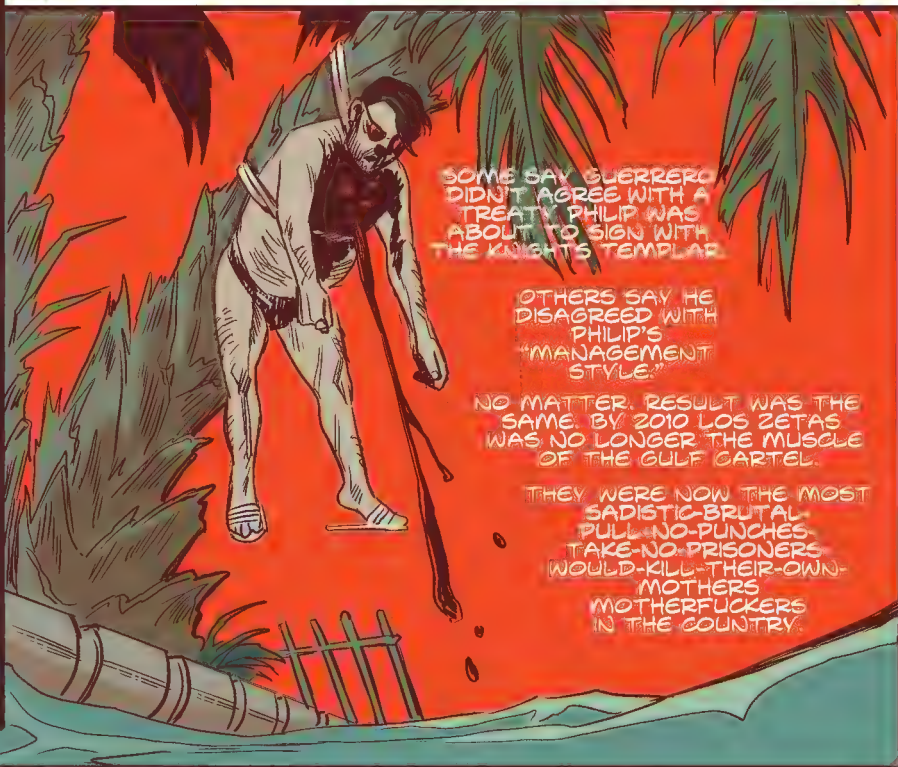
THAT  
DIDN'T  
GO WELL.

SOME SAY GUERRERO  
DIDN'T AGREE WITH A  
TREATY PHILIP WAS  
ABOUT TO SIGN WITH  
THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

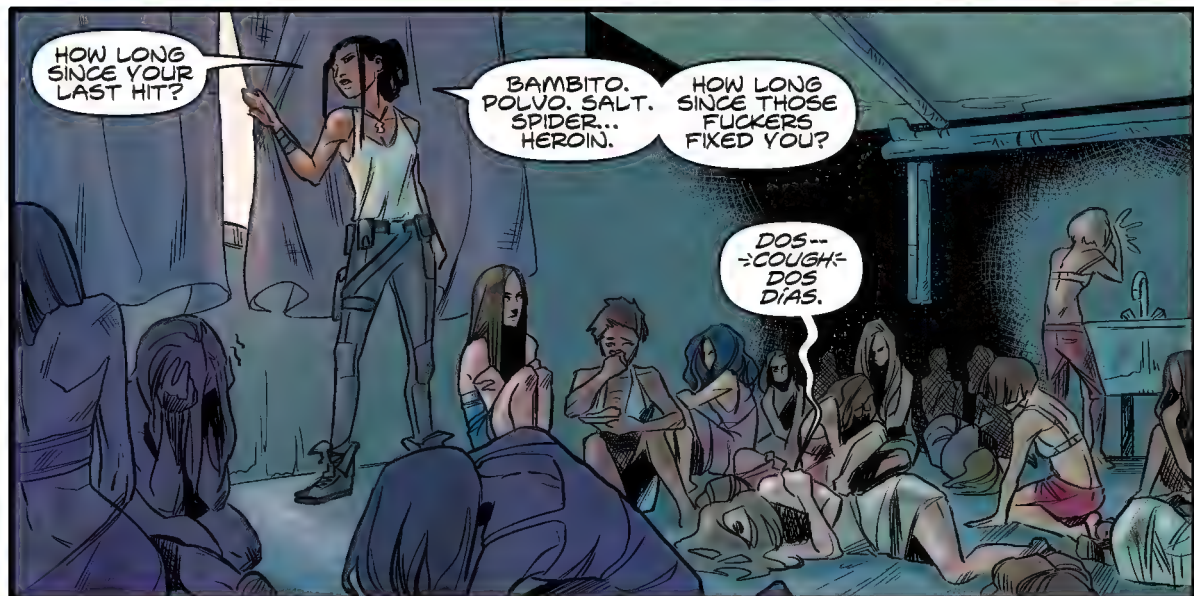
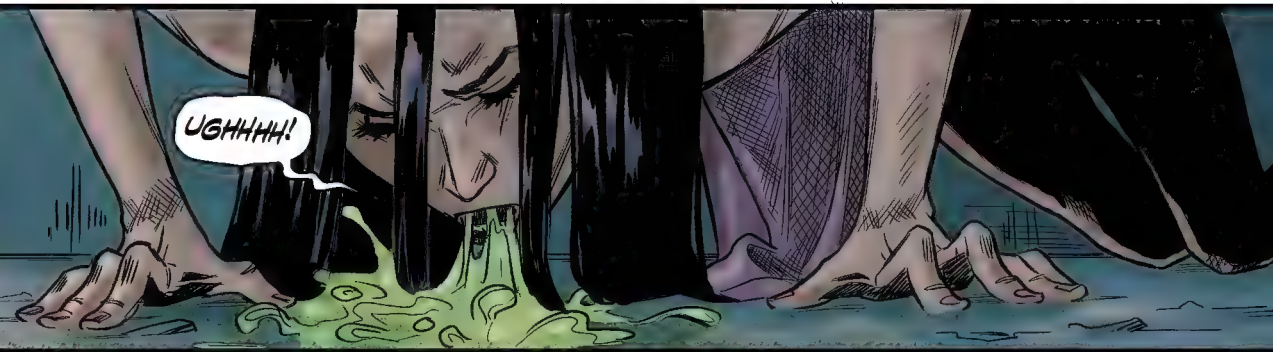
OTHERS SAY HE  
DISAGREED WITH  
PHILIP'S  
"MANAGEMENT  
STYLE."

NO MATTER, RESULT WAS THE  
SAME. BY 2010 LOS ZETAS  
WAS NO LONGER THE MUSCLE  
OF THE GULF CARTEL.

THEY WERE NOW THE MOST  
SADISTIC-BRUTAL  
PULL-NO-PUNCHES  
TAKE-NO-PRISONERS  
WOULD-KILL-THEIR-OWN-  
MOTHERS  
MOTHERFUCKERS  
IN THE COUNTRY.





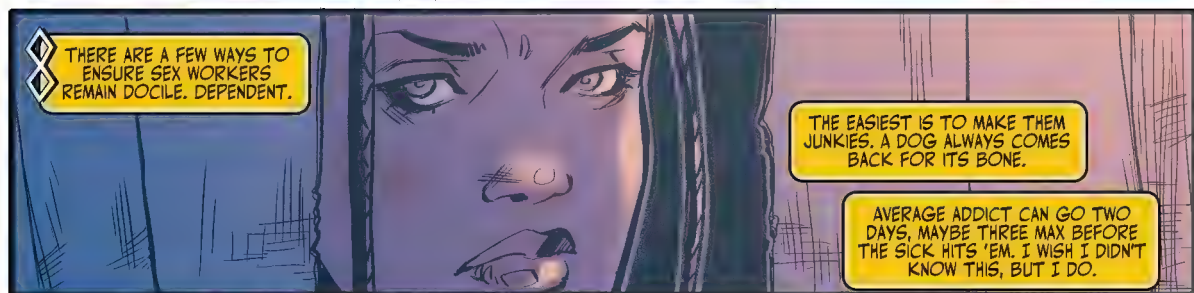


HOW LONG  
SINCE YOUR  
LAST HIT?

BAMBITO.  
POLVO. SALT.  
SPIDER...  
HEROIN.

HOW LONG  
SINCE THOSE  
FUCKERS  
FIXED YOU?

DOS--  
=COUGH=  
DOS  
DIAS.



THERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO  
ENSURE SEX WORKERS  
REMAIN DOCILE. DEPENDENT.

THE EASIEST IS TO MAKE THEM  
JUNKIES. A DOG ALWAYS COMES  
BACK FOR ITS BONE.

AVERAGE ADDICT CAN GO TWO  
DAYS, MAYBE THREE MAX BEFORE  
THE SICK HITS 'EM. I WISH I DIDN'T  
KNOW THIS, BUT I DO.



THEY WON'T  
MAKE IT.  
THAT MEANS  
I HAVE A NEW  
PRIORITY.

I HAVE  
TO SCORE  
THESE  
GIRLS SOME  
HEROIN.

JESUS.  
CHRIST.





(WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? THE BASTARD WAS RIGHT.)



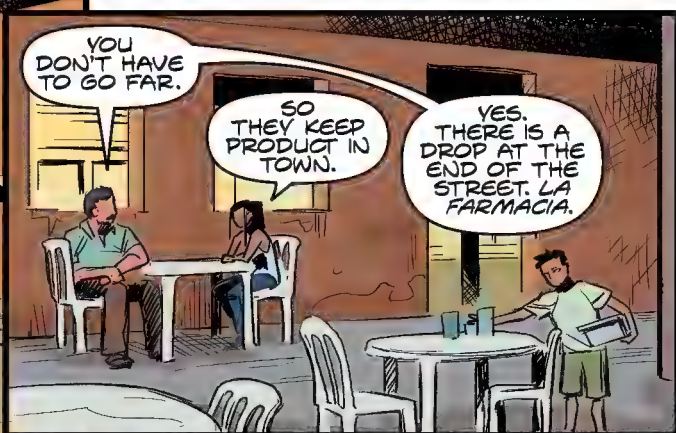
(I KNOW OF THIS GIRL. IN THE NEWS. MY WIFE'S NEPHEW IS MS-13 IN L.A. SAYS SHE IS A MACHINE.)

(HE ALSO SAID SHE'S DEAD.)

(THEN SHE HAS RISEN.)



(“FIND HER.”)



YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO FAR.

SO THEY KEEP PRODUCT IN TOWN.

YES. THERE IS A DROP AT THE END OF THE STREET. LA FARMACIA.



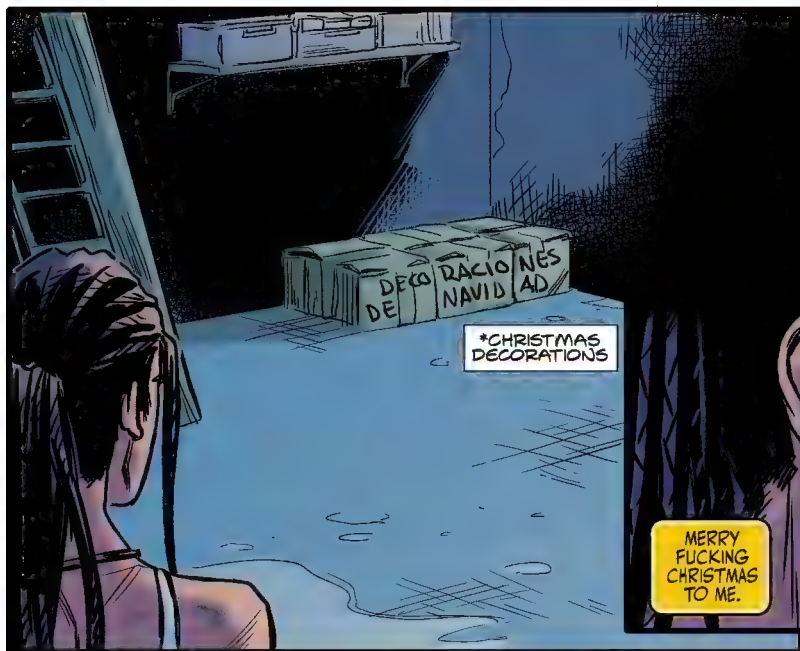
LITTLE OBVIOUS, NO?

FIND ME SOMEONE FOOL ENOUGH TO STEAL FROM THEM. KILOS ON THE SIDEWALK WOULD BE JUST AS SAFE.

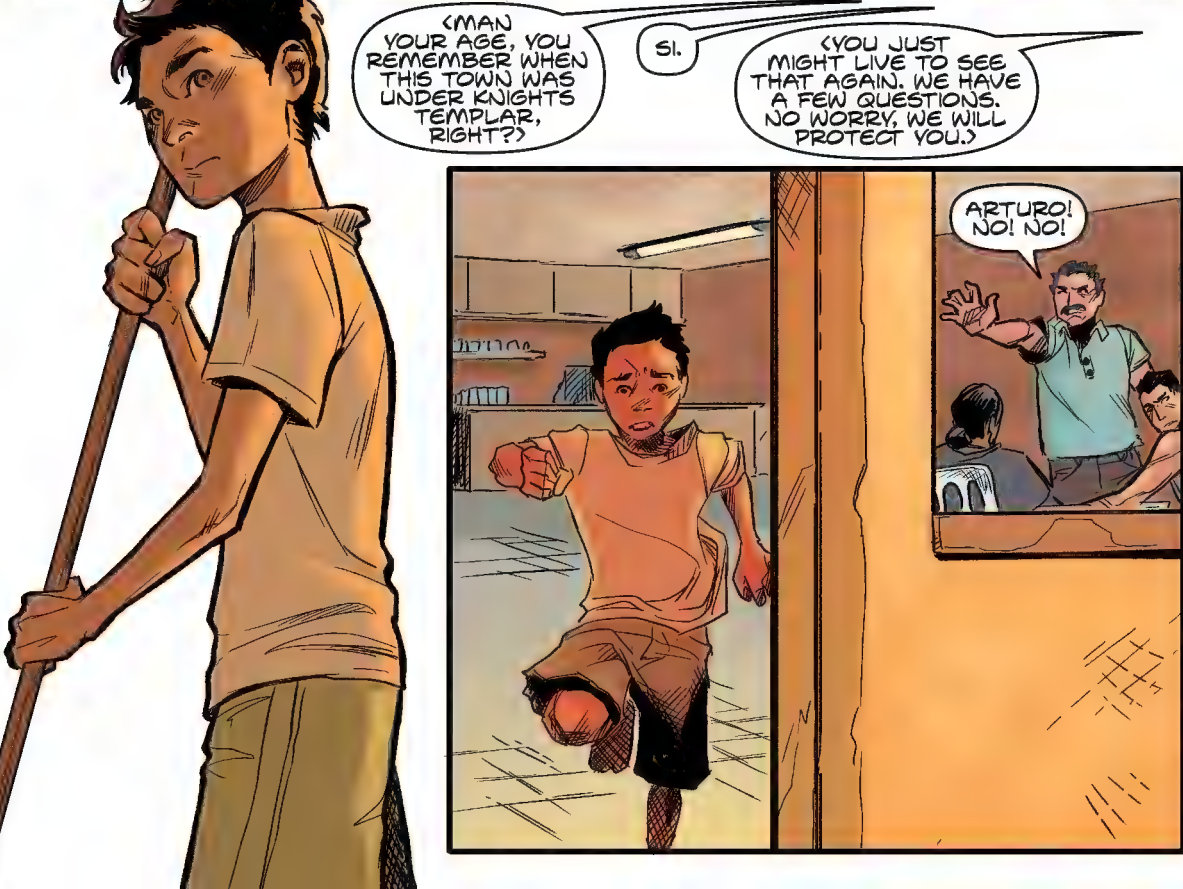
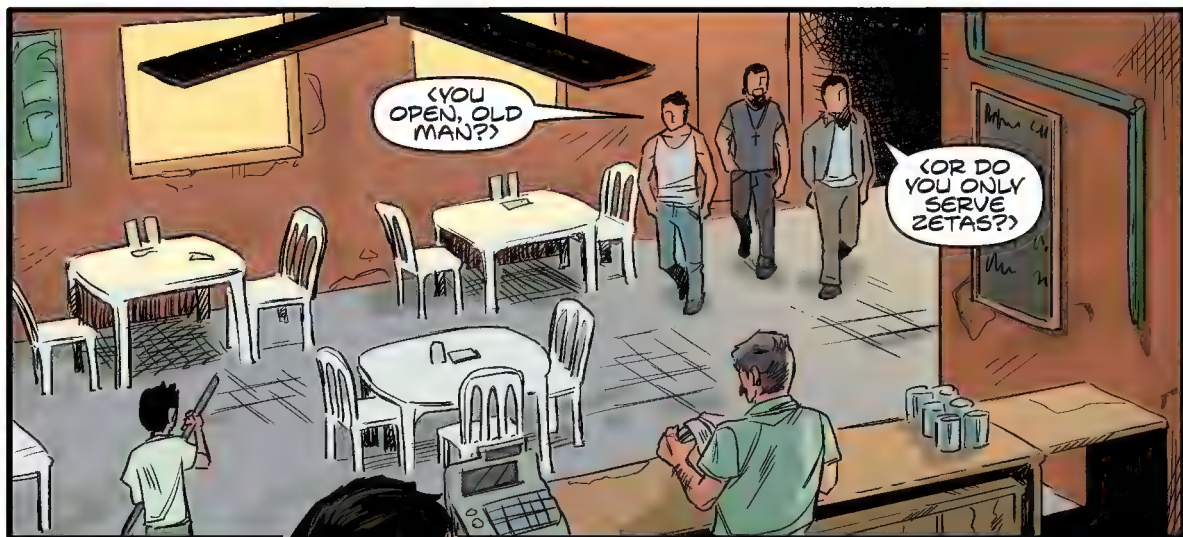




THE ONLY REASON A PISS-ANT TOWN LIKE THIS IS STILL ON THE MAP IS BECAUSE IT IS PRETTY MUCH HALFWAY BETWEEN THE ZETA PLANT AND MEXICO CITY.











LIKE I SAID.  
KILLERS  
WORSHIPED  
AS FOLK  
HEROES.

THE IRONY IS  
NOT LOST  
ON ME.





PUTA! A WORD!

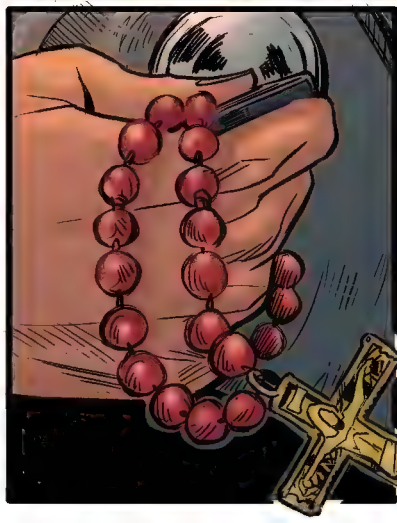
THEY WILL PAY BIG MONEY FOR HER!



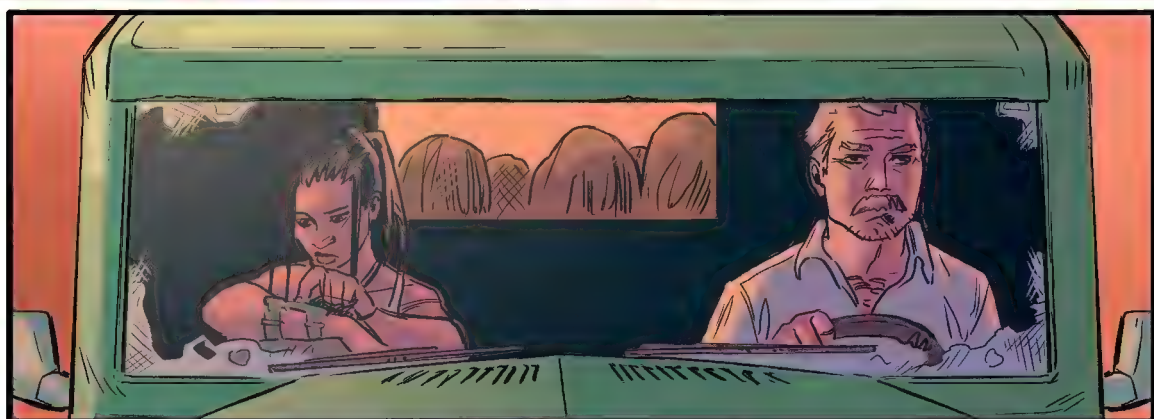
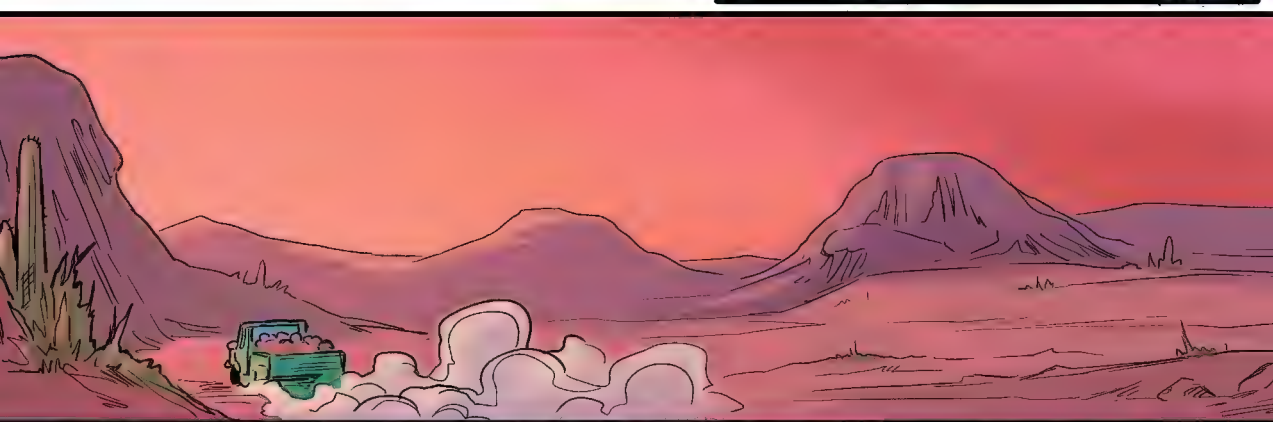
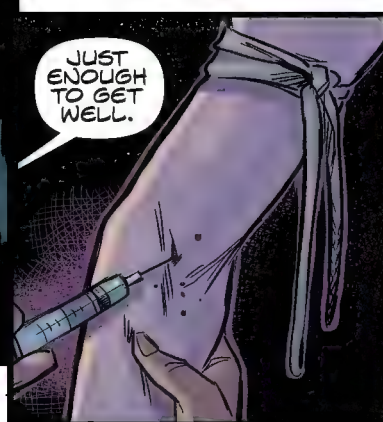
**Working on EVAC.  
4 clicks N/NE.  
Proceed to  
foothills.**

CLANG

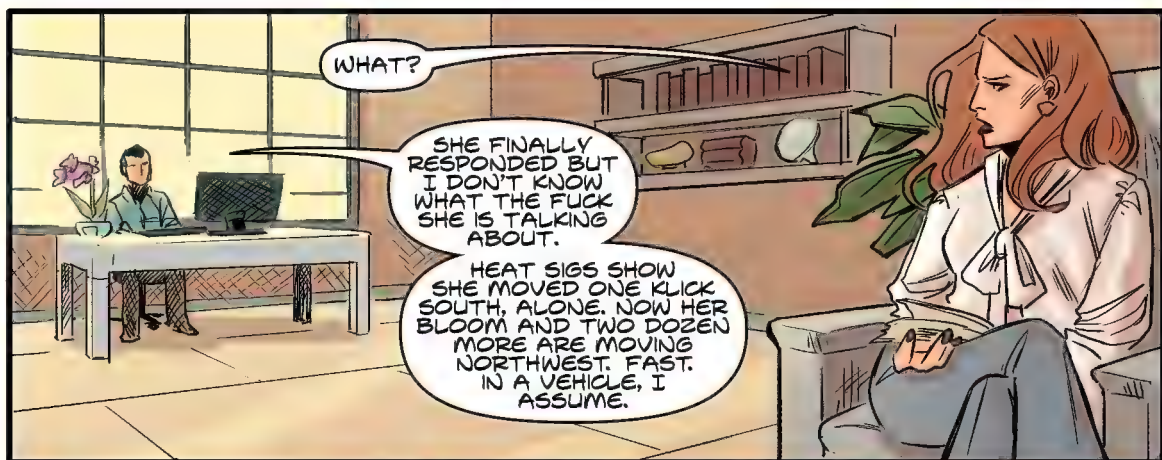












WHAT?

SHE FINALLY RESPONDED BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FUCK SHE IS TALKING ABOUT.

HEAT SIGS SHOW SHE MOVED ONE KLIK SOUTH, ALONE. NOW HER BLOOM AND TWO DOZEN MORE ARE MOVING NORTHWEST. FAST. IN A VEHICLE, I ASSUME.



SHE SAID SHE IS HEADED TO "THE EVAC." YOU THINK STANTON IS ONTO US? YOU THINK HE KNOWS SHE'S ALIVE?

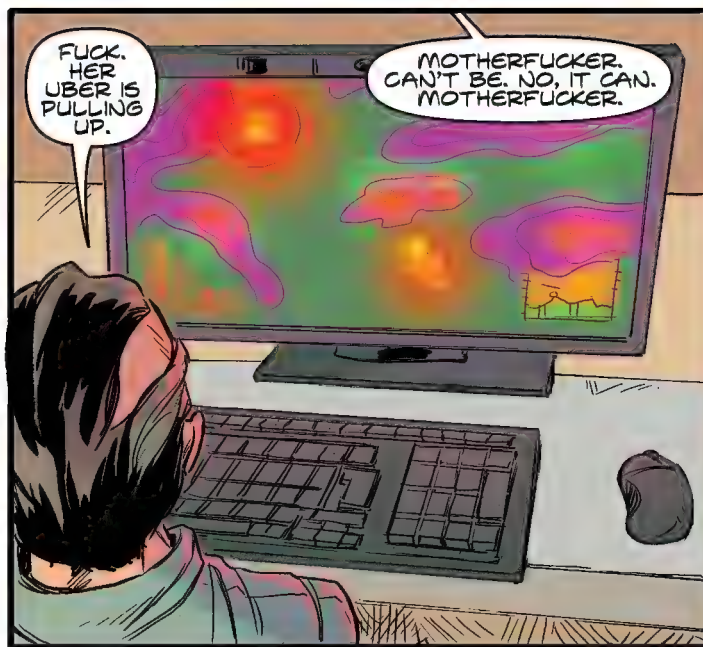


YOU SAID HER COMM WASN'T SHUT DOWN, JUST NOT MONITORED.



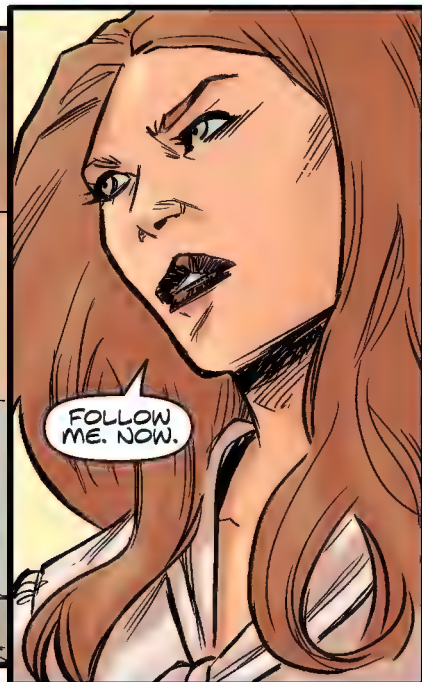
ARE YOU HAVING AN ANEURISM? HELLO? SOMEONE IS BRINGING HER IN AND IT'S NOT US.

SHE IS WALKING RIGHT INTO SOMETHING.



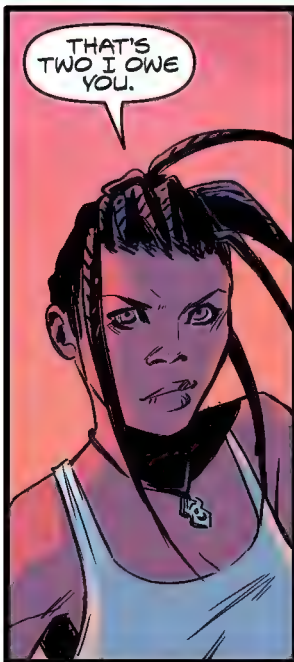
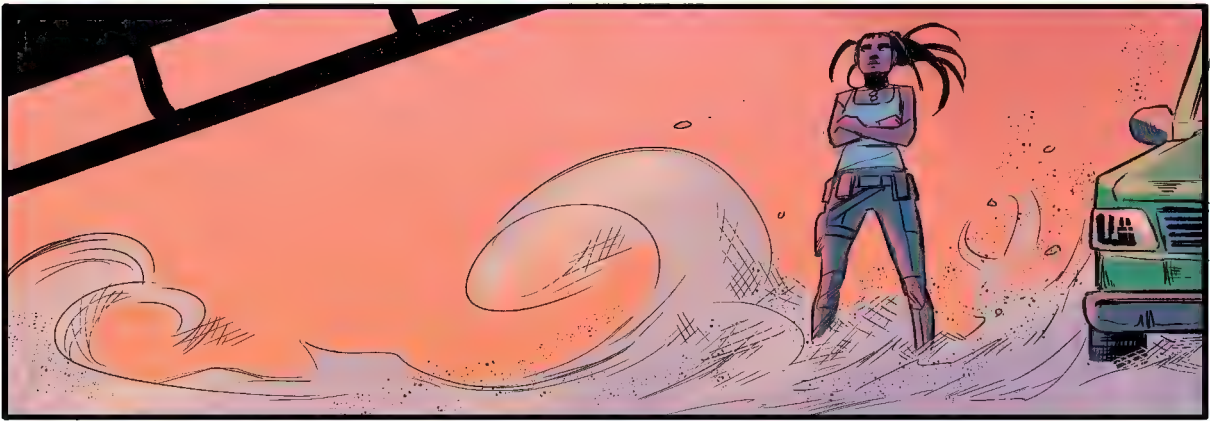
FUCK. HER UBER IS PULLING UP.

MOTHERFUCKER. CAN'T BE. NO, IT CAN. MOTHERFUCKER.

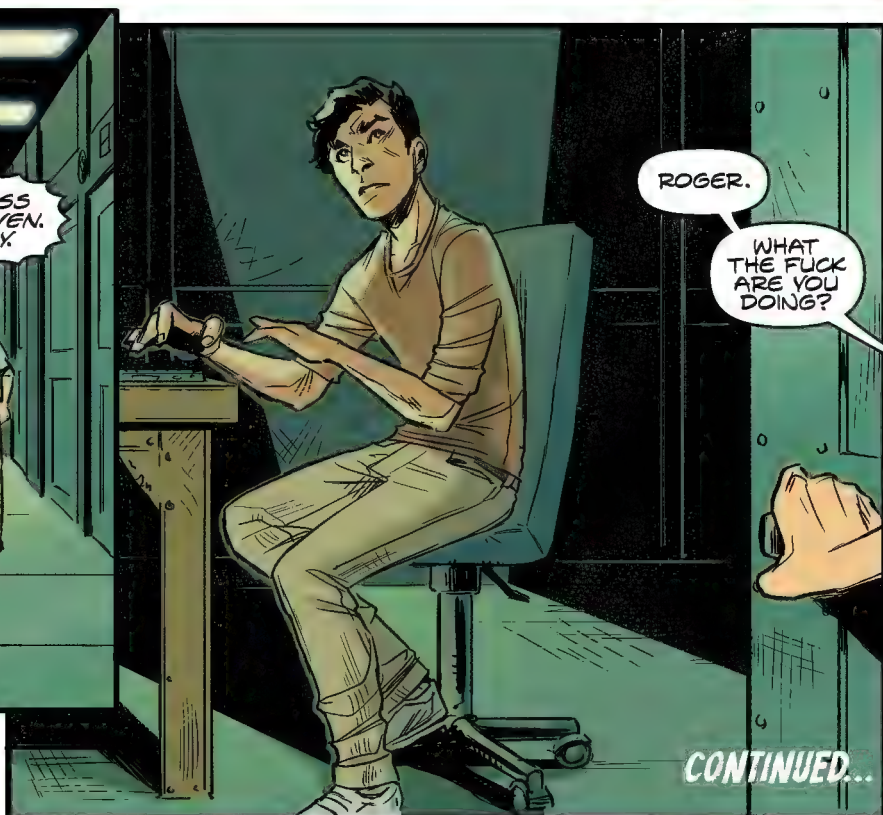
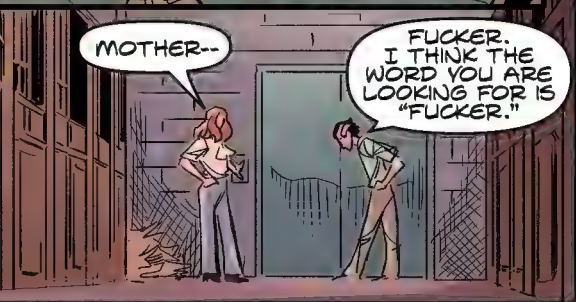
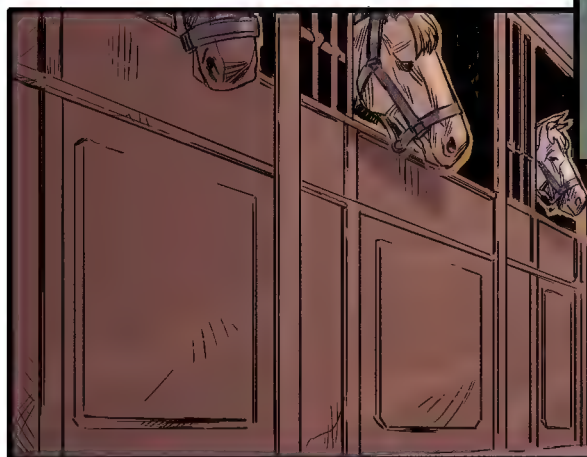


FOLLOW ME. NOW.











**NEXT ISSUE**

# Destiny

**CARTEL #5**



**MARC BERNARDIN • ADAM FREEMAN • ROSI KAMPE • BRAD SIMPSON**





Alex Underwood has  
been to war and back—  
but she's never seen  
power and destruction  
like this before.



Caitlin Kittredge, Roberta Ingranata, and Bryan Valenza introduce an all-new series about one woman  
who will throw down the gauntlet against evil in...

# WITCHBLADE

CAITLIN **KITTREDGE** ROBERTA **INGRANATA** BRYAN **VALENZA**

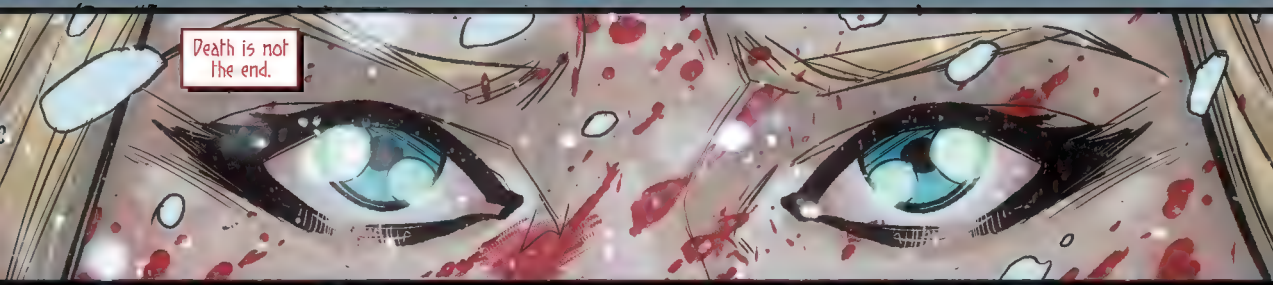
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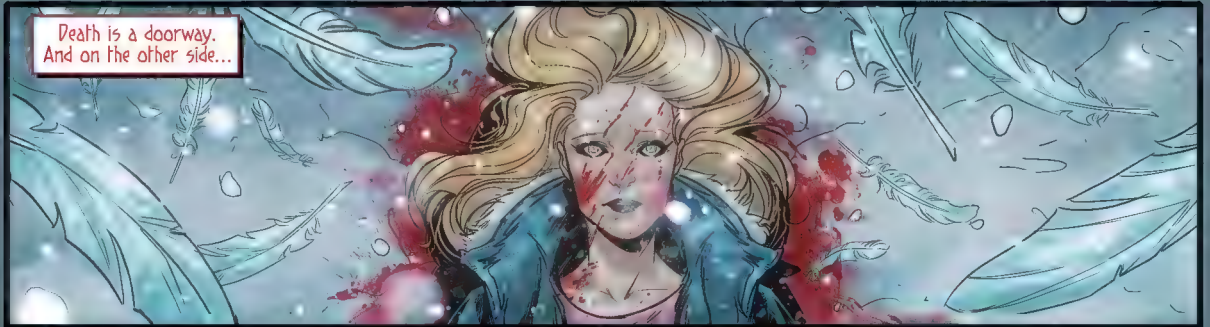
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Death is not  
the end.



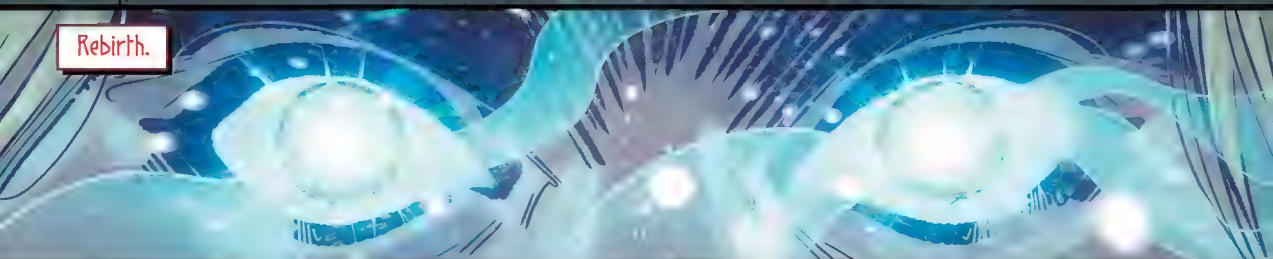
Death is a doorway.  
And on the other side...



Help...

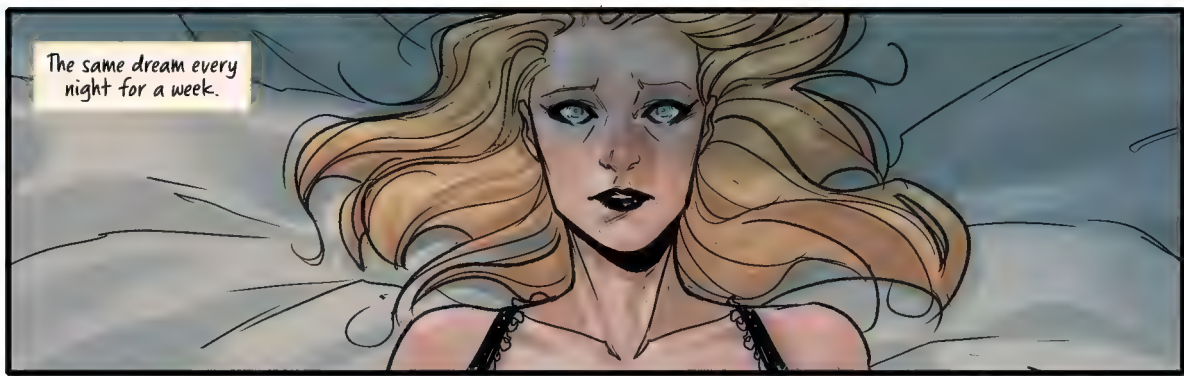


Help...  
me...

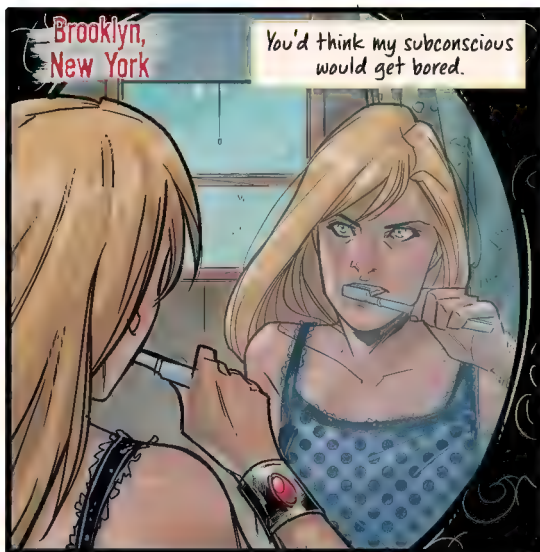


Rebirth.



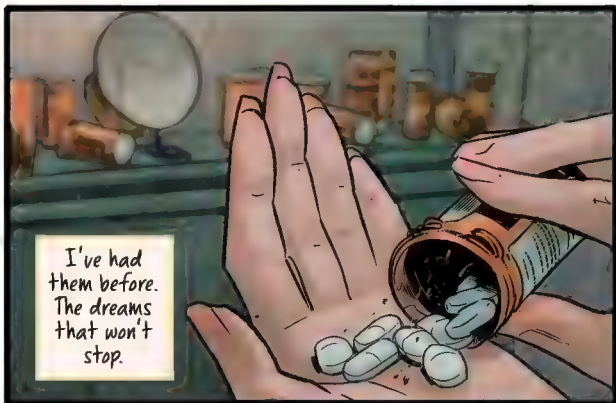


The same dream every  
night for a week.



Brooklyn,  
New York

You'd think my subconscious  
would get bored.



I've had  
them before.  
The dreams  
that won't  
stop.



But not for a  
long time. I  
thought it  
was over.



It's never over,  
though. Not for me.



Witness Aid Services Unit,  
Office of the District Attorney

Lower Manhattan

I recognize you.

From television. You're on the news.

Used to be.

You did the hard part, Myra. Filing the police report. We'll take it from here.

I know you've already spoken with ADA Maddox about tomorrow, but is there anything worrying you?

I know how these things go. Perks of being a cop's wife.

You're doing the right thing. Blake can't get to you any more.

But if you're having second thoughts, I'm on your side. That's my whole job.

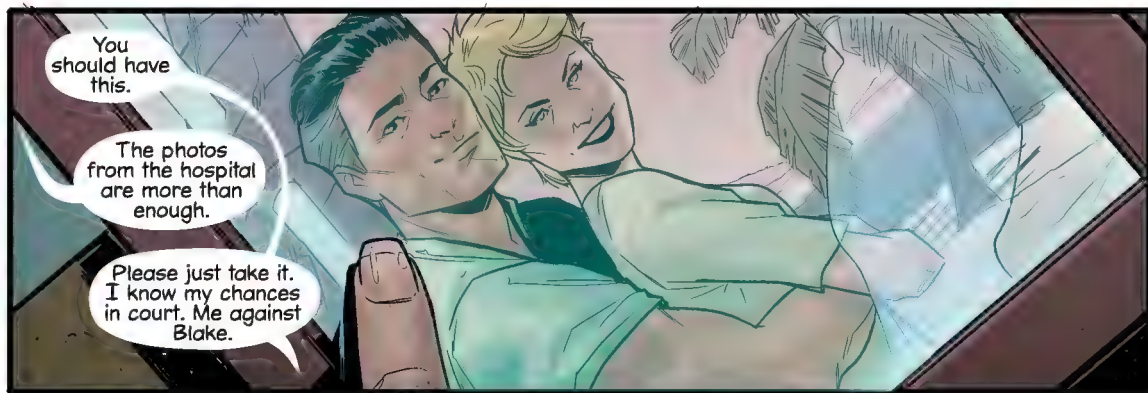
It's not even what he did to me, as much as the lying.

Pretending everything is fine to his friends, his co-workers, my parents.

Forcing me to smile and lie when he'd knocked out two of my molars.

Me telling ten different ER doctors I slipped in the subway...





You should have this.

The photos from the hospital are more than enough.

Please just take it. I know my chances in court. Me against Blake.



If something happens to me, I want **SOMEONE** to know just how much of a liar he is.

I want them to look at this and the photos the doctor took and know that he's a monster in both.



Are you okay to get back to your hotel?

Even Blake isn't foolish enough to violate a restraining order in broad daylight.



My ass he wouldn't.

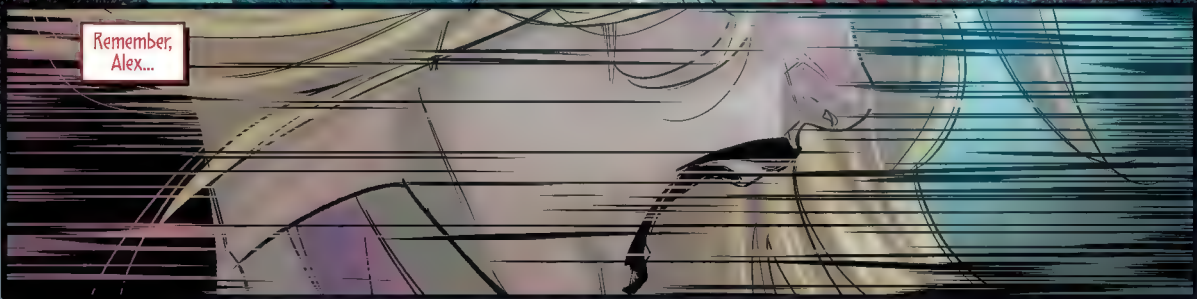
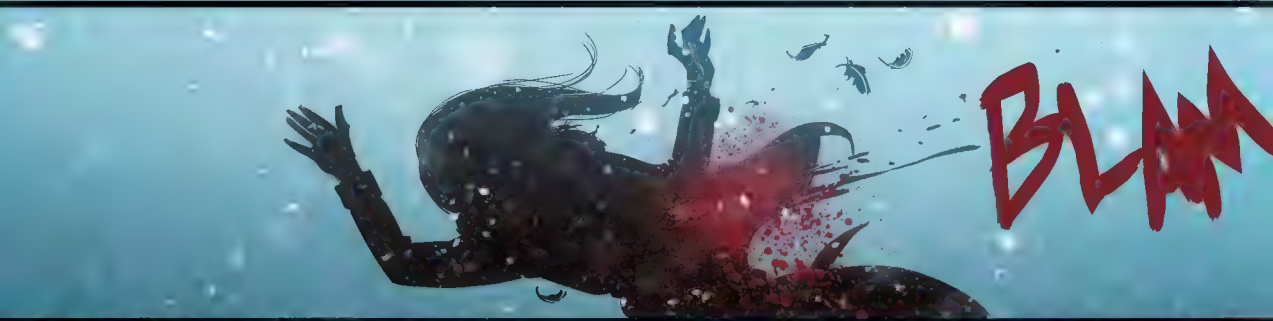
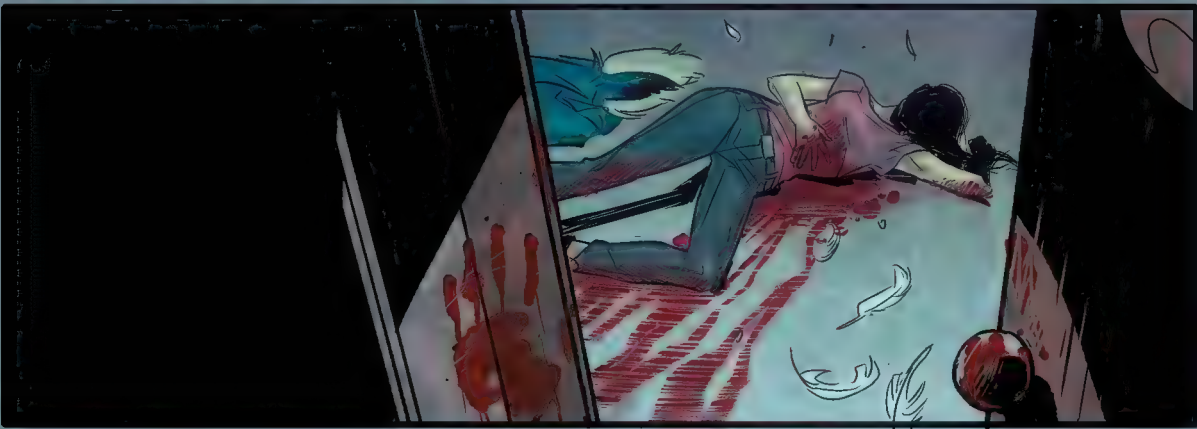
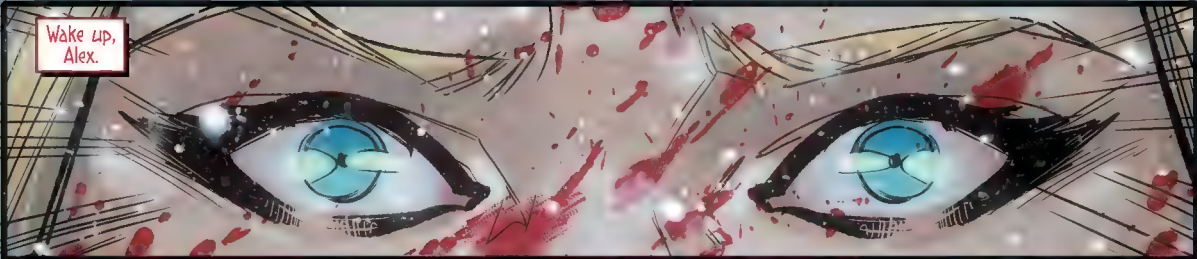
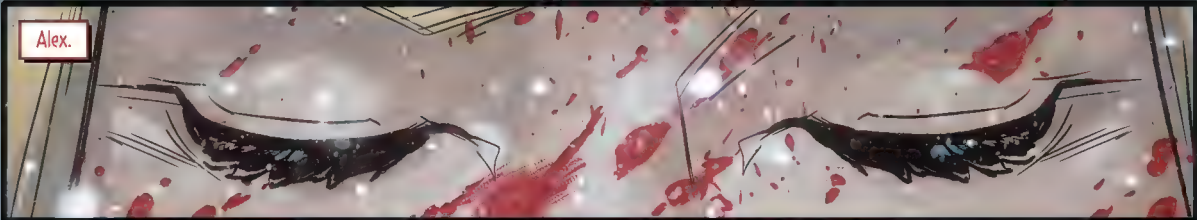
I'll make sure she gets to her car.

Oh no. You want to help, do better than my useless investigator and find the maid who supposedly saw Blake going Chris Brown.

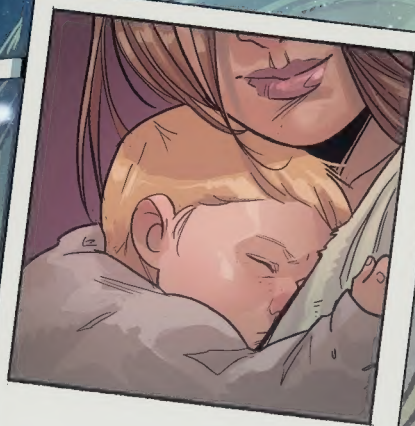
I'd really love for Detective Groves to walk into his trial wearing a big fat ankle monitor.













MATT HAWKINS

RAFF IENCO

# STAIRWAY™



RAFF  
IENCO

## COMING SOON

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CHOOSE

RAFF  
IENCO

MATT HAWKINS • RAFFAELE IENCO

# POSTAL MARK

AVAILABLE NOW



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RATED M / MATURE





KEEP IT

